



9th May 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope all in our school community are keeping well and enjoying the late spring and very early summer – or “sprummer” as a child recently described it to me! Please read on to keep up to date with the latest St. Fintan’s NS news.

Best wishes,

Mr. Caulfield, Principal

Pupils arriving late to school: The school day has been fully normalised for some months now. **The school day starts at 8.50am.** On average, over 20 pupils a day are arriving late. **Such children are missing school time and late arrivals into class are hugely disruptive for classmates too.** Please ensure that your child is on time for school – ie. **in their class line before 8.50am.**

Recent Irish Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal: thanks to all parents who recently supported this school appeal through Aladdin. You have contributed almost €8,000 so far! This money has now been transferred to the Red Cross, however donations can still be made through Aladdin. Recently, we were delighted to welcome a number of children from Ukraine to our school.

Irish Cancer Society and Down Syndrome Ireland Appeals: Thanks also to all who supported our recent collections for these two worthy charities. Both collections raised in the region of €1000 each and these funds have also now been transferred to the charities.

Yard fencing work: Those who have visited our school yard recently will have seen the super fencing that has been installed, to create zones for our school garden and woodland themed play area / outdoor learning zones. We would be delighted to hear from parent volunteers who could help us paint the fencing: please email info@stfintansns.ie ASAP to volunteer – thanks.

Check out our Pollinator Pizza: All classes have now planted “seed bombs” in our giant circular pollinator pizza towards the top right of the front of the school. Keep an eye on the pollinators as they grow over the next few weeks – fingers crossed! Thanks also to all parents who sent in SuperValue pollinator cards. We very quickly collected the required number of cards and so we have now entered the SuperValu “Save the Bees” competition to win money to improve our school grounds for biodiversity. Fingers crossed we win!!!

First Holy Communion: Ms. Tarbett’s 2nd class children will celebrate their Communion this coming Saturday 14th May at 11am in St. Fintan’s Parish Church, followed by Ms. Clancy’s 2nd class children at 12.30pm

Confirmation: Ms. Tuoehy’s 6th class children will make their Confirmation on Thursday 26th May at 11am in St. Fintan’s Parish Church, followed by Ms. Treleven’s 6th class children at 12.30pm. The “Service of Light” for Confirmation is on this Thursday evening, 12th May, at 7.30pm in St. Fintan’s Parish Church.

This Friday 13th May renowned and celebrated storyteller Niall DeBurca will visit St. Fintan's NS to host storytelling sessions for all our pupils in our hall. We're really looking forward to it!

School Calendar for Next Year: We expect to issue the 2022-2023 school calendar next week.

The Junior Infant Induction Day for incoming pupils will be held in the school on Wednesday 25th May from 11am – 12pm. New pupils will get to meet their junior infant teacher and there will be a short presentation for incoming junior infant parents in the school hall.

Very well done to both our 6th classes for their recent work in national educational projects. Ms. Tuohey's gang participated in Science Blast, testing to see if shredded COVID-19 masks could add strength to concrete! And Ms. Treleaven's gang are currently participating in the Junior Entrepreneur programme, designing, making and selling stress balls!

Standardised tests: Next week, our 1st – 6th class pupils will complete their standardised tests in literacy and numeracy (Tuesday – Thursday). Sacramental classes may take these tests on other days in the coming period. Do remember that teacher professionals use a very wide range of assessment tools to monitor children's curriculum learning and broader educational development. Literacy and numeracy scores in standardised tests are absolutely not the most important thing for children in primary school. Results of your child's test scores will however be communicated on your child's summer report, to be issued in June. Further information for parents on standardised tests and other primary school educational matters is available from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment here: <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/>

End of year School Sports Days: These will be held during the school day for all classes in June. Further information will issue to parents closer to your child's school sports day.

School Tours: If not already done, teachers will soon be in touch with parents through Aladdin, with information about your child's end of year school tour.

Booklists for next year and related matters will issue to parents later this month, along with information about payment arrangements through Aladdin.

Announcements about class teachers for next year will be issued before the end of the current school year, in June.

Pupil end of year summer reports: Our target date for release of these to parents is the week beginning Monday June 20th 2022

Sixth Class Graduation: Later this month, we will confirm the date for our 6th class graduation, which will be held in our school hall towards the end of June. Parents will be very welcome to attend this ceremonial event.

Pupils not returning to St. Fintan's NS: If you know that your child will not be returning to our school in September (other than 6th class pupils), please let our office know as soon as possible.

Please note that school will close at 12pm for all pupils on Monday 30th May for a final Department of Education required and approved staff new curriculum training.

And Finally...Recent Parents Association Golf Event: A huge thank you to all involved in making last Friday's PA golf event in Sutton Golf Club such a great success, despite the occasional showers! Thanks also to the many parents and supporters who came along to the meal in the evening too. The staff team (including Parish Priest Fr. Cyril) were absolutely thrilled to defend the cup and we can't wait for next year...to go for the triple whammy! 😊 😊 😊